



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

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## Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on July 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Mark Lombari, Kathleen Tucciarone, Stephen Sypole and Walter Conklin. Ben Terry was absent. Stephen Smith was present as a guest. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2015.**

The minutes from the regular meeting held on June 15, 2015 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of June 15, 2015. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dionne and all members were in favor.

The board welcomed new board member Walter Conklin.

### **2. Discussion for planning of September business open house/forum.**

The board discussed plans for an open house/business forum which would be hosted by the EDB. The proposed date for the event is Wednesday, September 9, 2015 from 6-9 p.m. The board discussed venue options for the event, including Town Hall, Hope and Main, and 426 Fitness/Parker Mills; in the end, the board decided that Parker Mills would be the best choice for an evening event. Mr. Smith suggested Clay Pell as a possible speaker for the event. The board agreed that the Town Council, East Bay Chamber of Commerce, and Discover Warren should be extended an invitation. Ms. Dionne said she would work with Ms. Volino to design a flier/handout to promote the event. Mr. Lombari said he would contact business owners and provide refreshments. Ms. Volino said she would contact Water Street business owners and the East Bay Chamber of Commerce.

There were questions about whether the proposed event would qualify as an EDB meeting and the process of hosting an event without violating open meeting laws. As part of this discussion, Mr. Smith suggested that the EDB could take on the role as advocates for local businesses. Mr. Sypole said that he would email Town Council member Joseph DePasquale regarding permission to host the event. Likewise, Ms. Dionne said she would email the Town Manager on the same issue.

The EDB will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> to further coordinate plans for the event.

### **3. Discussion of initiatives for remainder of 2015.**

This agenda item was postponed until the September meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Volino, the motion was seconded by Ms. Tucciarone, and all members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald  
August 21, 2015

